

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICEPAGE # 000012107
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NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORMSEE INSTRUCTIONS IN HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

1 NAME

HISTORIC

Morgan's Fresh

AND/OR COMMON

MORGAN HILL FARM (preferred); Hill Farm

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

On Wohlgemuth Road
West side of Sollers Road, approximately two miles
south of its intersection with Maryland Route 2/4

CITY, TOWN

Lusby

☒ VICINITY OF

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

First

STATE

Maryland

CODE

24

COUNTY

Calvert

CODE

009

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

DISTRICT

☒ BUILDING(S)

STRUCTURE

SITE

OBJECT

OWNERSHIP

PUBLIC

☒ PRIVATE

BOTH

PUBLIC ACQUISITION

IN PROCESS

BEING CONSIDERED

STATUS

☒ OCCUPIED☐ UNOCCUPIED☐ WORK IN PROGRESS

ACCESSIBLE

☐ YES, RESTRICTED☐ YES, UNRESTRICTED☒ NO

PRESENT USE

☒ AGRICULTURE☐ COMMERCIAL☐ EDUCATIONAL☐ ENTERTAINMENT☐ GOVERNMENT☐ INDUSTRIAL☐ MILITARY☐ MUSEUM☐ PARK☒ PRIVATE RESIDENCE☐ RELIGIOUS☐ SCIENTIFIC☐ TRANSPORTATION☐ OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Mr. and Mrs. Christian Wohlgemuth

STREET & NUMBER

Morgan Hill Farm

CITY, TOWN

Lusby

☒ VICINITY OF

STATE

Maryland 20657

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Calvert County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Prince Frederick

STATE

Maryland

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE Maryland Historical Trust and St. Mary's City Commission
HABS Architectural Survey of Tidewater Maryland

DATE

1972

☐ FEDERAL ☒ STATE ☐ COUNTY ☐ LOCALDEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

St. Mary's City Commission

CITY, TOWN

St. Mary's City

STATE

Maryland

DESCRIPTION

CT-61

CONDITION			CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED		<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED			DATE _____

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Morgan Hill Farm, commonly called Hill Farm, is situated on the crest of a hill at the terminus of a two mile long private lane that begins on the west side of Soller's Road, approximately two miles south of its intersection with Maryland Route 2/4, Calvert County, Maryland. The house is of a T-shaped plan, one and one-half stories in height with single exterior chimneys on each of the three exposed ends. The forward or upper part of the "T" constitutes the original building which, based on the structural and decorative elements, appears to have been built about 1700. An earlier date of construction, however, is entirely possible. Despite the fact that the original house was extensively remodeled in the early nineteenth century, there is a remarkable amount of original fabric, facilitating a reasonably accurate verbal, drawn, or physical reconstruction-restoration.

The present facade of Hill Farm faces southeast, although whether this elevation was the original front is not known. Its center door appears to occupy its original location, but the frames of the two windows flanking it are early nineteenth century enlargements of the originals. The earlier windows were probably similarly positioned but undoubtedly smaller. The same fenestration and door placement is repeated on the northwest elevation, but the door now provides passage between the original house and the later rear wing.

The front (southeast) elevation is sheathed with beaded random width flush boards. Although applied using wrought nails, the boards are believed to be contemporary with the early nineteenth century renovations. The remainder of the house is covered with random width lapped boards of about the same vintage. At the end of the house stand single exterior chimneys with stepped weatherings, free-standing stacks, and fieldstone bases. These chimneys were added to the house in the early nineteenth century when a massive central chimney was removed. On the south slope of the gable roof are three peaked dormers. Two dormers (originally three) are on the north slope. These windows were apparently added during the renovation and do not appear to have replaced earlier windows. The eaves are now boxed but were originally open, revealing projecting joist ends with rounded bases and diagonal false plates with chamfered edges. The exposure of the eaves was a fairly common treatment throughout the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries; however, few examples have been found that display the same decorative treatment as those at Hill Farm.

The first floor room configuration of Hill Farm (see plan A) consists of a center stair hall flanked by a single room on each side. Until the early nineteenth century, the center of the house was dominated by a massive chimney with expansive back to back fireplaces (see plan B). When the chimney was removed, two new (or altered) partition walls were built to provide for the existing center hall. The stair, which has an open balustrade and unusually designed newells composed of two chamfered posts joined at the top by an arched cap, stands in the northeast corner and rises in two flights to the attic. This stair, though undoubtedly

see continuation sheet #1

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INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

Morgan Hill Farm
Calvert County

CONTINUATION SHEET Maryland ITEM NUMBER 7 PAGE 1

7. Description, continued

nineteenth century, probably occupies the same location as the original.

Hill Farm is framed in five ten-foot bays. Major wall posts, five on a side including corners, are exposed in all three first-floor rooms. These, as well as the exposed wall plates, end girt and ceiling joists, have beaded edges and are painted. The remaining wall surfaces are plastered. The baseboards, rails, window and door surrounds, doors, mantels and window sash are of the early nineteenth century. In the attic are two bedrooms and a hall, all with exposed and beaded principal rafters, purlins, diagonal wind braces and collars. Like the first floor, the remaining wall surfaces are plastered.

On the northeast end of the house, positioned east of center line, is a one-story log wing moved here from a former location near the town of Lusby. Its detailing suggests that it was first built in the early nineteenth century. It now houses a modern kitchen and has a large fireplace on the northeast end.

When the present owners acquired the property in 1949, they restored the house to its early nineteenth century appearance with the exception of the plaster which at that time covered the originally exposed ceiling joists. In 1952 a large rear wing added to the house that, utilizing the same materials and plan as the earlier part, complements rather than detracts from the original building. Near the house is a one-story log servants' quarter, moved from its original creek-side site on the property and remodeled for use as a guest cottage. There is also a log smokehouse and a large tobacco barn. In an area where log buildings are quickly disappearing, these once common-building types are unusual survivals. From physical evidence, all of the three buildings appear to have been built circa 1800.

The house and grounds of Hill Farm are beautifully maintained and the site commands a superb view of St. Leonard's Creek.

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW				
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)	
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION			

SPECIFIC DATES

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Morgan Hill Farm was a land grant made to Phillip Morgan in 1651 under the name Morgan's Fresh. Although there is a paucity of extant information relating to this period of the farm's development, it is known that Phillip Morgan was a captain in the Puritan Militia and a locally prominent man. He lived somewhere on his Morgan's Fresh property. In 1670 Morgan sold the lands to Robert Day.

It is probable that Robert Day or one of his sons built the earliest part of the present house between 1670 and 1700. In 1836 the property was sold by Day's descendants to Richard Breeden. Breeden was probably responsible for the extensive renovations made to the house and the numerous improvements to the property. Hill Farm remained in the possession of Breeden's descendants until 1949 when the property was sold to Mr. and Mrs. Christian Wohlgemuth, the present owners.

Hill Farm, despite the extent of its alterations, retains a wealth of original fabric and for this reason is a valuable source in the study of our earliest architecture. Although such documented seventeenth-century houses as Cedar Park (circa 1660) and Holly Hill (1670) in adjacent Anne Arundel County display many of the same features as Hill Farm, their original forms and detailing have been completely covered by various alterations and improvements. At Hill Farm the major percentage of the original fabric remains intact and visible, thus making it a unique survival. An important feature of Hill Farm was the presence of a central chimney, a feature not known in any surviving house plans of this type and period of construction in Southern Maryland. However, archaeological excavations at St. Mary's City, Maryland, most notably at the St. John's site, have revealed that the use of central chimneys as part of the original house plan was not uncommon during the early and mid-seventeenth century.

The boundaries for the property include the mile-long wooded entrance and the house and its various dependencies. This acreage is nominated to help preserve the view of St. Leonard's Creek, thus maintaining a visible reminder of the early tobacco farms' dependence on inland waterways in their social and economic life.

This acreage also includes a graveyard which stands about 200 feet north of the guest house, in the woods. It is overgrown and divided into two sections, one for the family and one for the black slaves.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

CT-61

Grosvenor, Beth. Research notes, Morgan Hill Farm, 1969. Files of the Maryland Historical Trust, Annapolis, Maryland.
Maryland Historical Trust-St. Mary's City Commission Architectural Survey of Tidewater Maryland, 1972, architectural drawings and data sheets.
Sabin, Charles Francis. A History of Calvert County, Maryland. Baltimore: By the Author, 1960.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 145 acres

UTM REFERENCES

ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
A 118	3705010	4125126310
B 118	3713410	4215125910
C 118	3713120	4125120310
D 118	371041610	4215120510

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

pmj

J. Richard Rivoire, Architectural Historian

ORGANIZATION

Maryland Historical Trust

DATE

July 1975

STREET & NUMBER

21 State Circle

TELEPHONE

(301) 267-1438

CITY OR TOWN

Annapolis

STATE

Maryland 21401

12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL ____

STATE ____

LOCAL ____

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

TITLE

DATE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

DATE

EST:

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

The Morgan Hill farmhouse is an interesting variant on the hall and parlor "Virginia House." Its eccentricities include both plan and joinery. A frame house, a story and a loft high and four bays long (40 by 20 ft.), it was constructed with a central chimney behind a small entrance lobby. (The building was converted to the more usual end chimney, cross passage plan during 19th-century renovations.) The roof is constructed of common rafter trusses, but, instead of standing on false plates (the normal Chesapeake pattern), the rafter feet are mortised and tenoned to the ends of the oversailing tie beams. While framed of generally light-weight, small-sectioned scantlings, their joining and finishing are good. The building is double-beamed and raftered (20 inch centers), and all of the roof joints are mortised and tenoned. The external, oversailing ends of the tie beams are molded, and the internally exposed posts, collars, and tie beams are beaded.

In 1979 and 1980, the opportunities for collecting dendrochronology samples were limited. Most of the frame is poplar--collars, tie beams, plates, and side sills--and the floor frame has been replaced. While the roof rafters are oak, they have no well preserved wane and they are small in sections (3 by 3 inches). The only oak members available for sampling were five wall posts and two gable sills. It was impossible to derive a structure pattern from them.

This is an extremely important structure of the late 17th or (more likely) early 18th century. Therefore, it is recommended that the house be resampled in the future. Resampling will require careful budgeting, however, as the only new material available is poplar and three oak wall posts (that could not be sampled in inconspicuous locations). If a restoration carpenter were available to camouflage sample holes, it might be possible to sample these three posts and to take better samples from the five posts sampled during this project.

References:

Morgan Hill Farm, Lusby vicinity, Calvert County, Maryland:
Historic American Building Survey

Cary Carson, J. Richard Rivoire, et al., CT-61 Architectural
Files, St. Mary's City Commission

THE KEY-YEAR DENDROCHRONOLOGICAL
PATTERN FOR THE OAKS OF
MARYLAND'S WESTERN SHORE 1570-1980

American Institute of
Dendrochronology

APPENDIX

Building Descriptions

Garry Wheeler Stone

Historic St. Mary's City

1987

CT-61 Morgan Hill Farm

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Dendrochronology Sample Locations:

Very limited. Both plates, most collars, and all tie beams observed are poplar. Rafters are sawn oak 3 by 3's with little wain, and what little wain is present has been destroyed by beetles. Because of mortise and tenoned joints, no opportunity for end slices except at filled-in-hole for former chimney, and there the visible ring counts did not warrant taking samples.

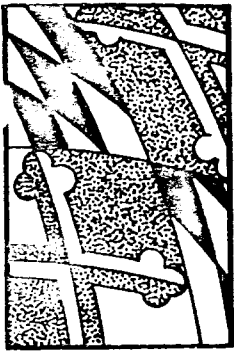
(On previous trips it had been determined that the floor frame has been replaced and that the long side sills are replacements.)

Roof:

A classic "double raftered" roof--i.e., four rafters to a hypothetical 5 ft. length of clapboards. (There is no certain evidence that the roof was ever clapboarded, although the present shingle lath are 19th-century.) One of the original spacing plank remains on the inside of the south slope rafters approximately halfway between collar beams and apex. The spacing plank is pit sawn. It has scratch marks at exactly 20 inch centers and is nailed through them to the inside of the rafters with rose-headed nails.

17 December 1980
Garry Wheeler Stone

cc: CT-61
Jack Heikkenen
Cary Carson
Mark Edwards ✓



OLD ST. MARY'S CITY

Ancient
and Chief
Seat of Government

St Mary's City Commission
St. Mary's City, Md. 20686
301-994-0779

January 14, 1981

Mr. Mark R. Edwards, Coordinator
Historic Sites Survey
Maryland Historical Trust
21 State Circle
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Mark:

Thank you for your letter of 7 January and the enclosed copy of the admendment extending our contract with MHT to 31 January.

Jack Heikkenen expects to mail us a draft of the final report this week. They have dated all the structures in the revised scope of work with the exception of the fragments from the Prestons Cliff dwelling. The last few dates to come in are: Morgan Hill Farm, 1725; Prestons Cliffs log barn, 1820; Sandgates, 1769; Dixon's Purchase dwelling, 1858; log kitchen, 1861.

Jack has done a bang-up job for us with out regard to cost or contract details--which, as you remember, do not require him to date all the buildings in the project. His travel and subsistence costs in resampling and announcing the preliminary findings of the project were \$1,740.

Note, in my notes on Sarum please change soft "summer" wood to soft "spring" wood; change popular to poplar.

Sincerely yours,

Garry

Garry Wheeler Stone
Archaeologist

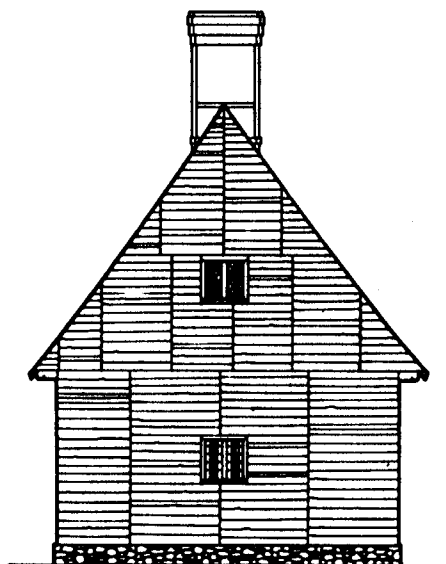
jjk

cc: H. J. Heikkenen

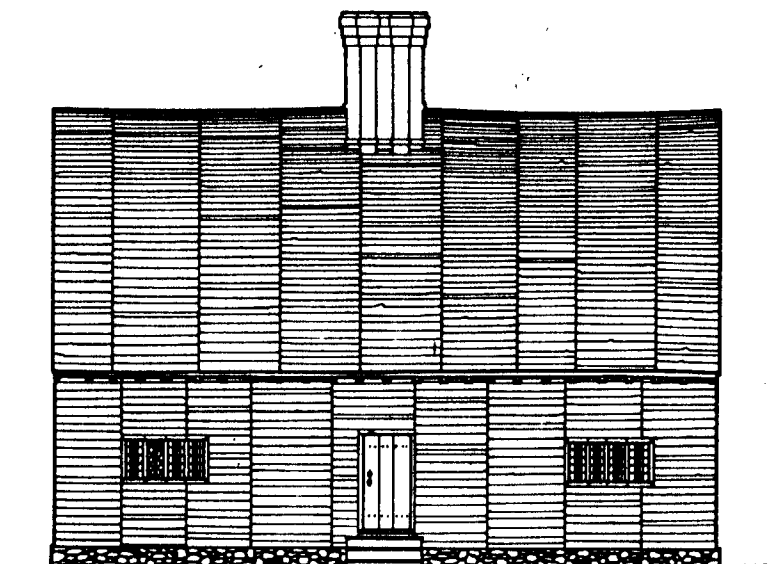
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JAN 21 1981

MARYLAND HISTORICAL
TRUST



WEST ELEVATION



SOUTH ELEVATION

KNOWNs *

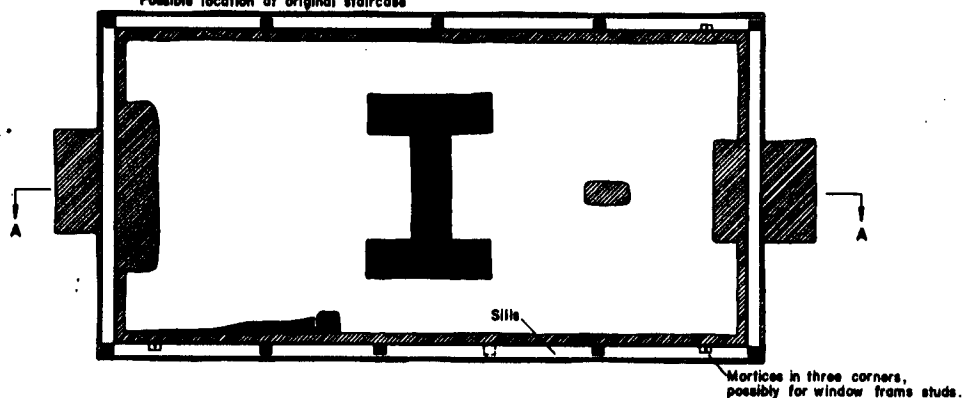
- Overall dimensions
- Location of central chimney.
- Position of doorway.
- Probable position and length of windows on South elevation.
- Placement and detailing of tie beams.
- Window frames after two-light casement found at Hally Hill.

CONJECTURAL RECONSTRUCTION OF PERIOD I

MASONRY *

- PERIOD I = C. 1700
- PERIOD II = C. 1820-50
- PERIOD I POSTS

Note: no window stud mortises
Possible location of original staircase



PLAN OF FOUNDATIONS



3/16" = 1' - 0"

DRAWN BY: CARY CARSON / CHINH HOANG 1975

ST. MARY'S CITY COMMISSION
MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST
UNDER DIRECTION OF THE NATIONAL PARK SERVICE,
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

LUSBY

NAME AND LOCATION OF STRUCTURE
MORGAN HILL FARM
CALVERT COUNTY

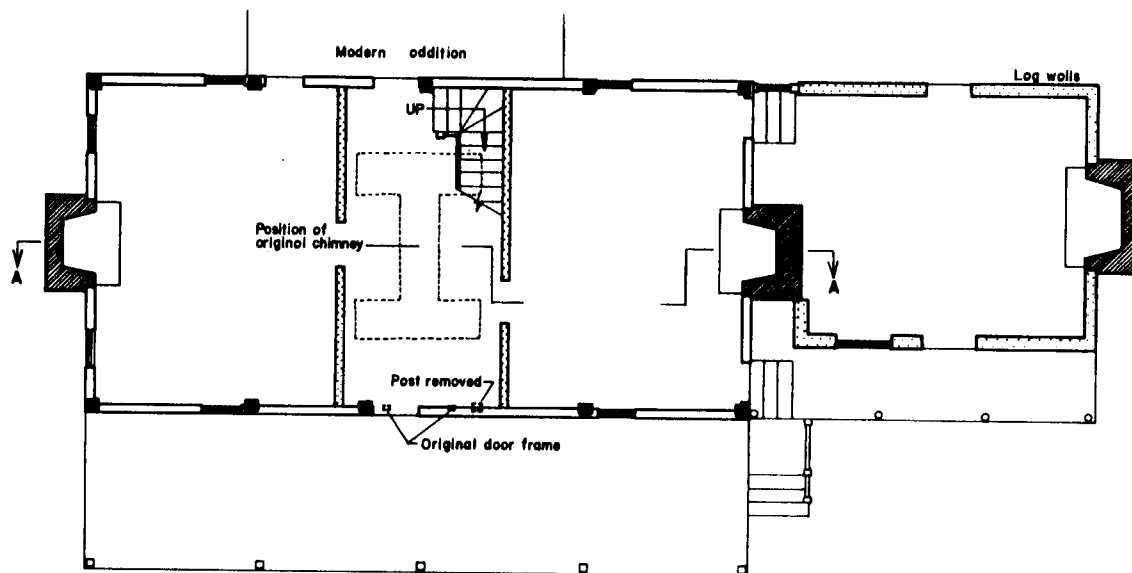
MARYLAND

SURVEY NO.

HISTORIC AMERICAN
BUILDINGS SURVEY
SHEET 1 OF 4 SHEETS

LOCATION OF CONSIDERED
BUILDING

CT-61



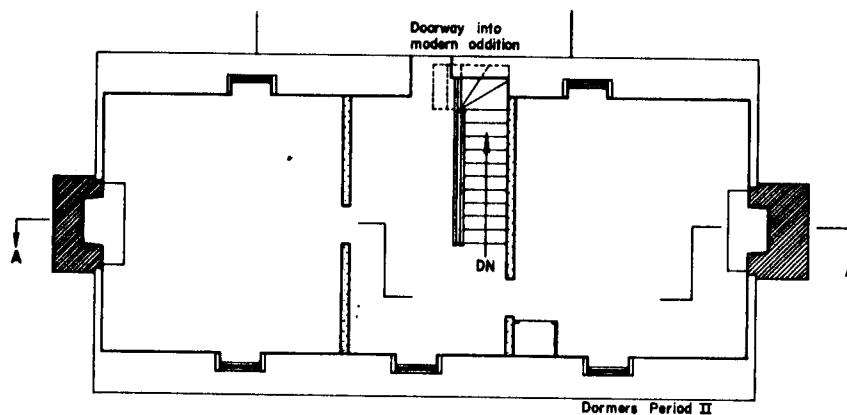
GROUND FLOOR PLAN

FRAME WALLS

- PERIOD I - C. 1700
- PERIOD II - C. 1820-50
- PERIOD I POSTS

MASONRY

- LOCATION OF PERIOD I CHIMNEY
- PERIOD II - C. 1820-50



ATTIC PLAN



5 0 5 10 15 20 3/16" = 1' - 0"

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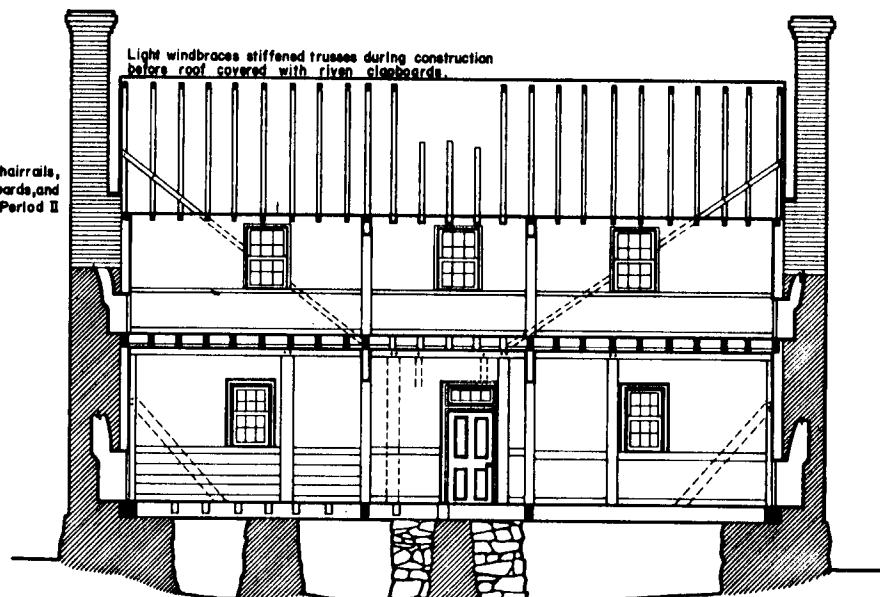
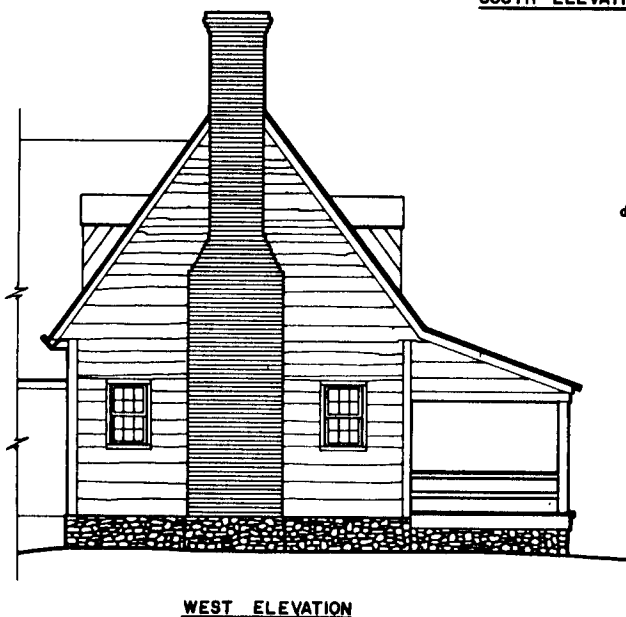
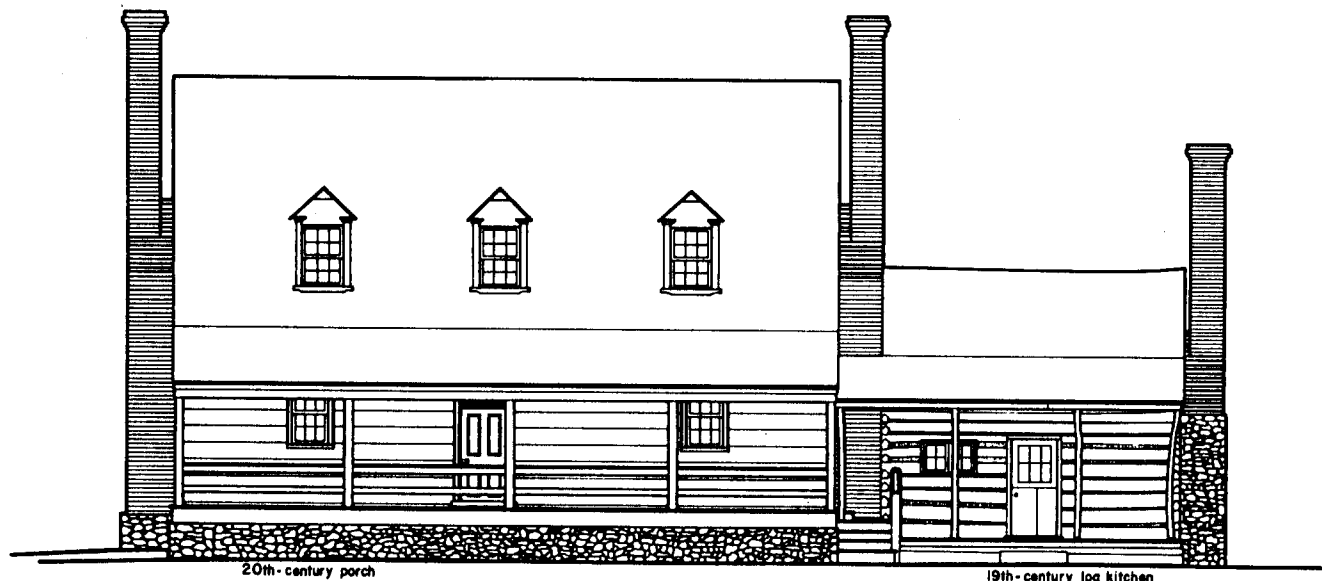
MARYLAND

SURVEY NO.

HISTORIC AMERICAN
BUILDINGS SURVEY
SHEET 2 OF 4 SHEETS

LISTED BY
DATE

CT-61



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MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST
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UNDER DIRECTION OF THE NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
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CALVERT COUNTY

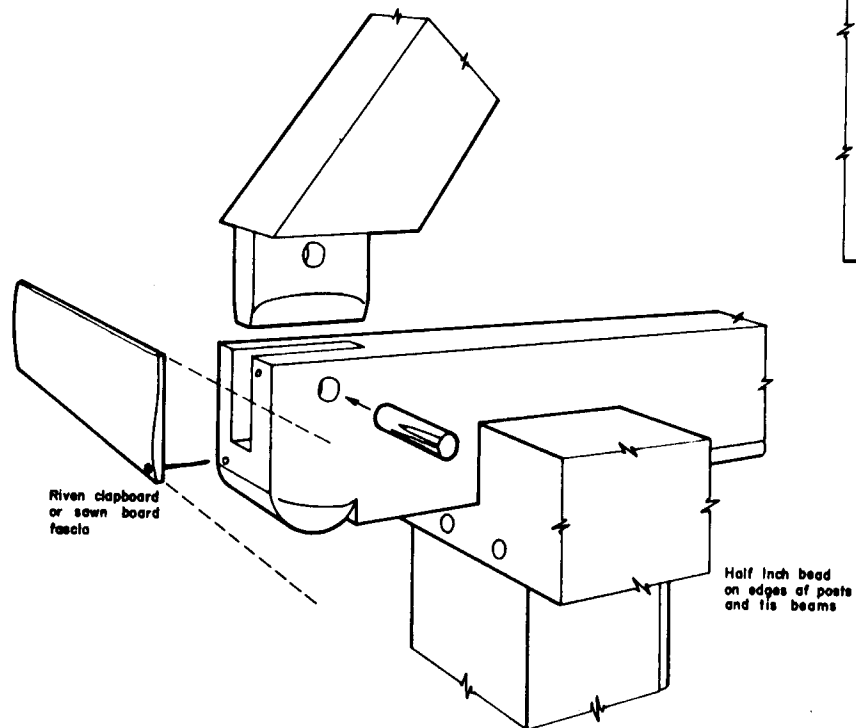
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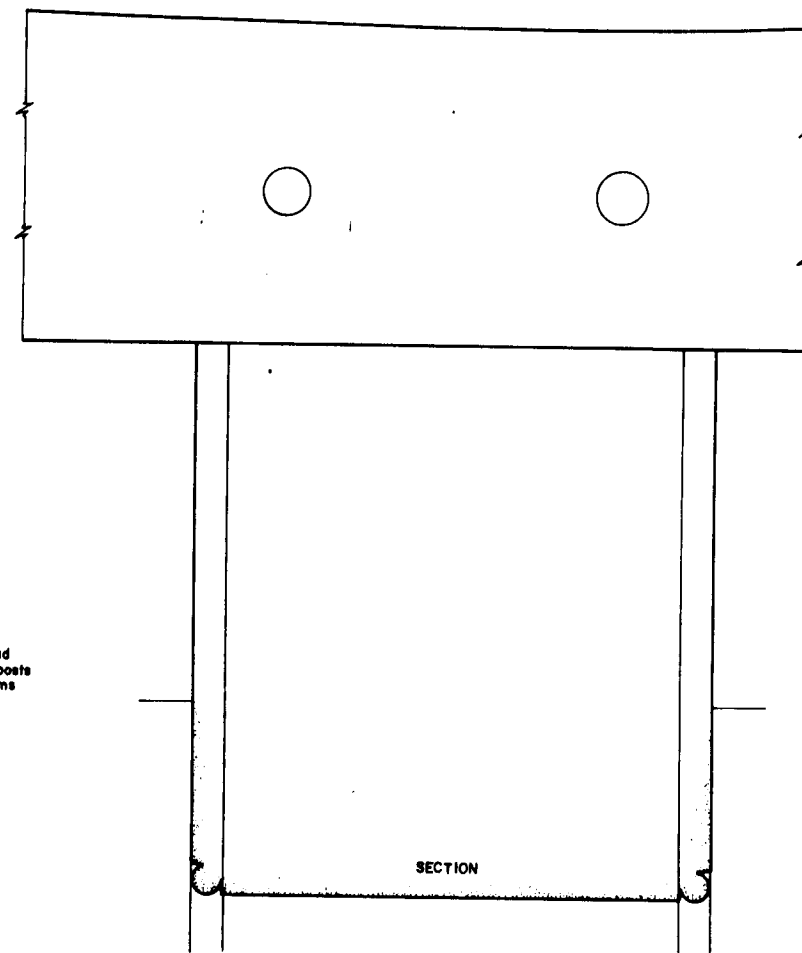
HISTORIC AMERICAN
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SHEET 3 OF 4 SHEETS

UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND
HILLS BUILDING

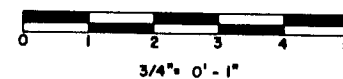
CT61



EXPLODED VIEW
EAVES CONSTRUCTION ON NORTH ELEVATION
(Not to scale)



INTERIOR POST AND PLATE DETAIL



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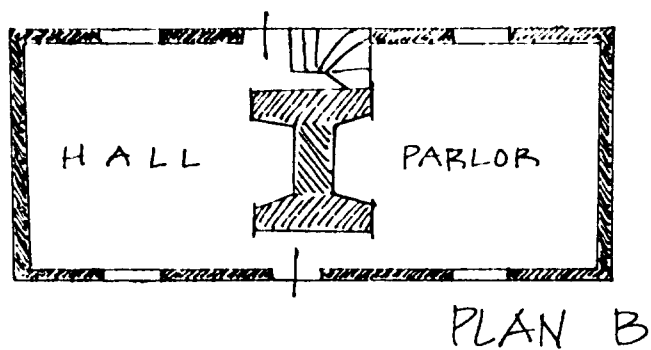
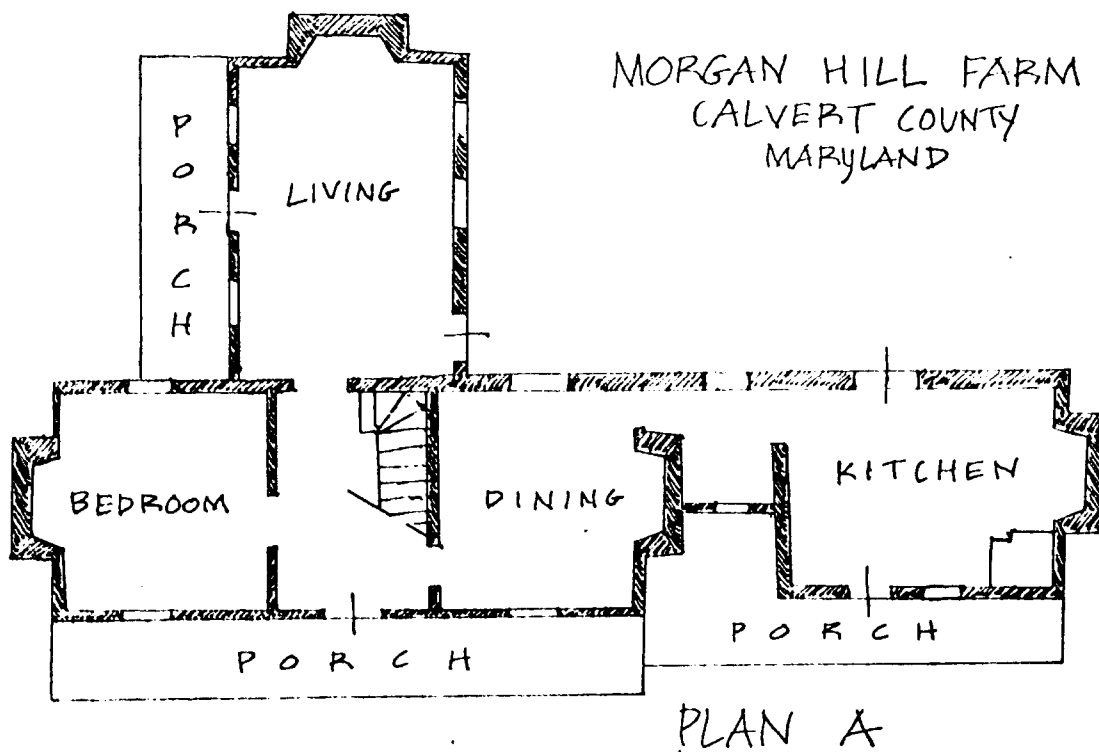
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CALVERT COUNTY

MARYLAND

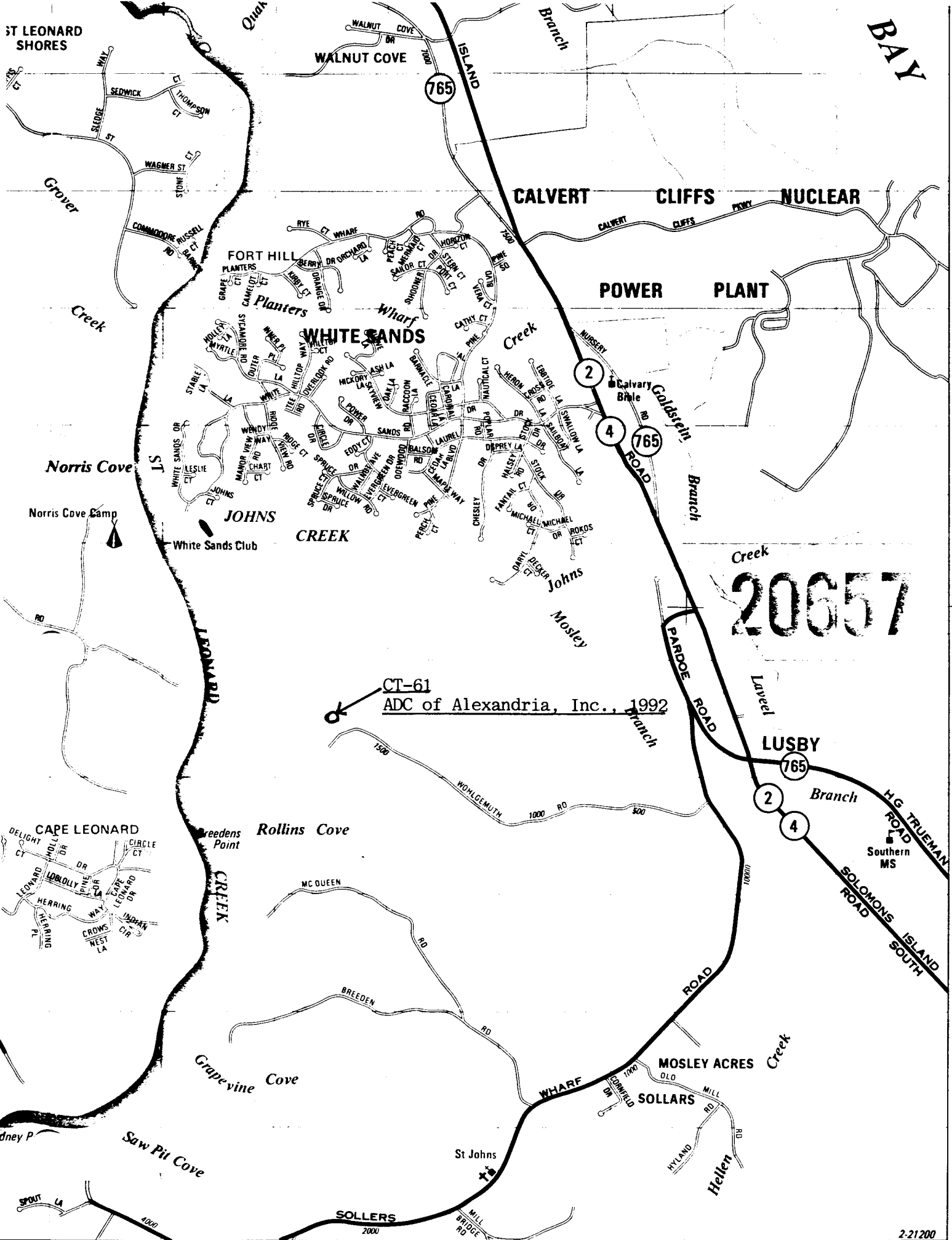
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HISTORIC AMERICAN
BUILDINGS SURVEY
SHEET 4 OF 4 SHEETS

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PHOTO REPRODUCTION

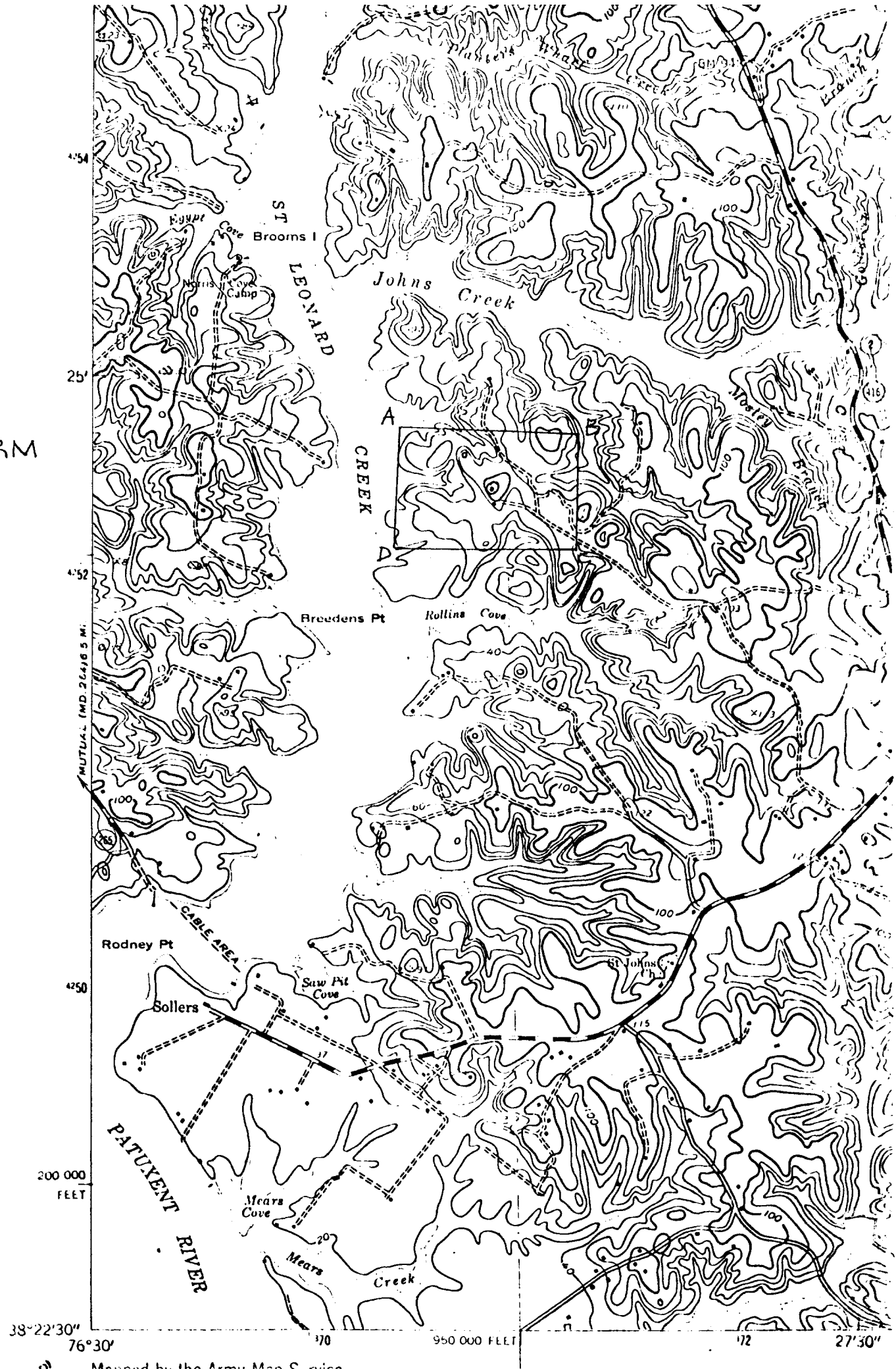


JPR/FMJ 8-11/75



A 18/370500/4252630
 B 18/37134 4252590
 C 18/371320/4252030
 D 18/370460/4252050

MORGAN
 HILL FARM
 CT-61



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Lusby

☒ VICINITY OF

COUNTY

Calvert

STATE

Maryland

3 PHOTO REFERENCE

PHOTO CREDIT

Pamela James

DATE OF PHOTO

November 1975

NEGATIVE FILED AT

Maryland Historical Trust, Annapolis, Maryland

4 IDENTIFICATION

DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC. IF DISTRICT, GIVE BUILDING NAME & STREET

PHOTO NO.

kitchen southeast facade.

1



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COUNTY Calvert

STATE Maryland

3 PHOTO REFERENCE

PHOTO CREDIT Pamela James

DATE OF PHOTO November 1975

NEGATIVE TITLE AT Maryland Historical Trust, Annapolis, Maryland

4 IDENTIFICATION

DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC. IF DISTRICT, GIVE BUILDING NAME & STREET

PHOTO NO.

house from southwest

7

CT-61



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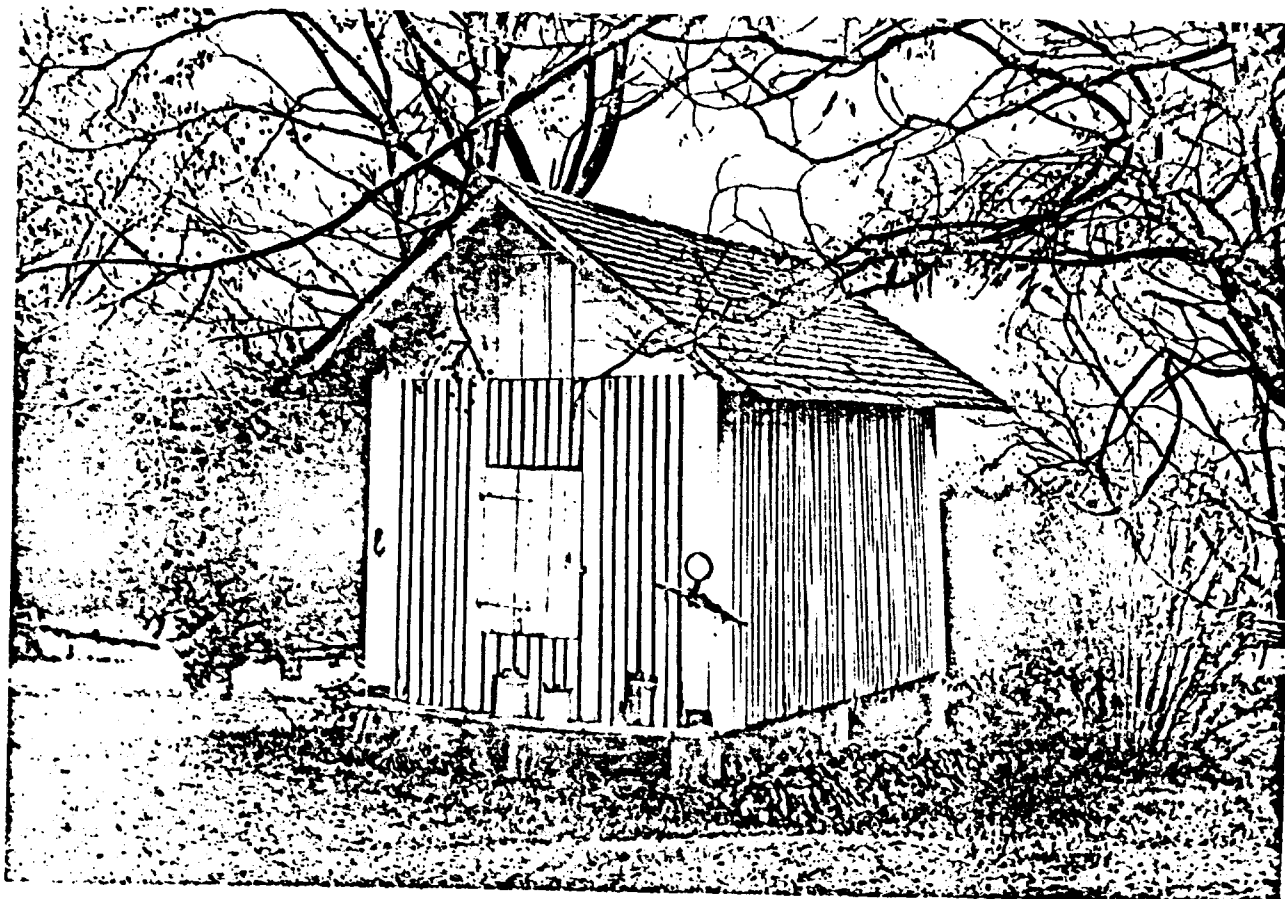
4 IDENTIFICATION

OF SCENE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC. IF DISTRICT, GIVE BUILDING NAME & STREET

PHOTO NO.

corn crib from northeast

3



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CITY, TOWN

Lusby

X VICINITY OF

COUNTY

Calvert

STATE

Maryland

3 PHOTO REFERENCE

PHOTO CREDIT

Pamela James

DATE OF PHOTO November 1975

NEGATIVE FILED AT

Maryland Historical Trust, Annapolis, Maryland

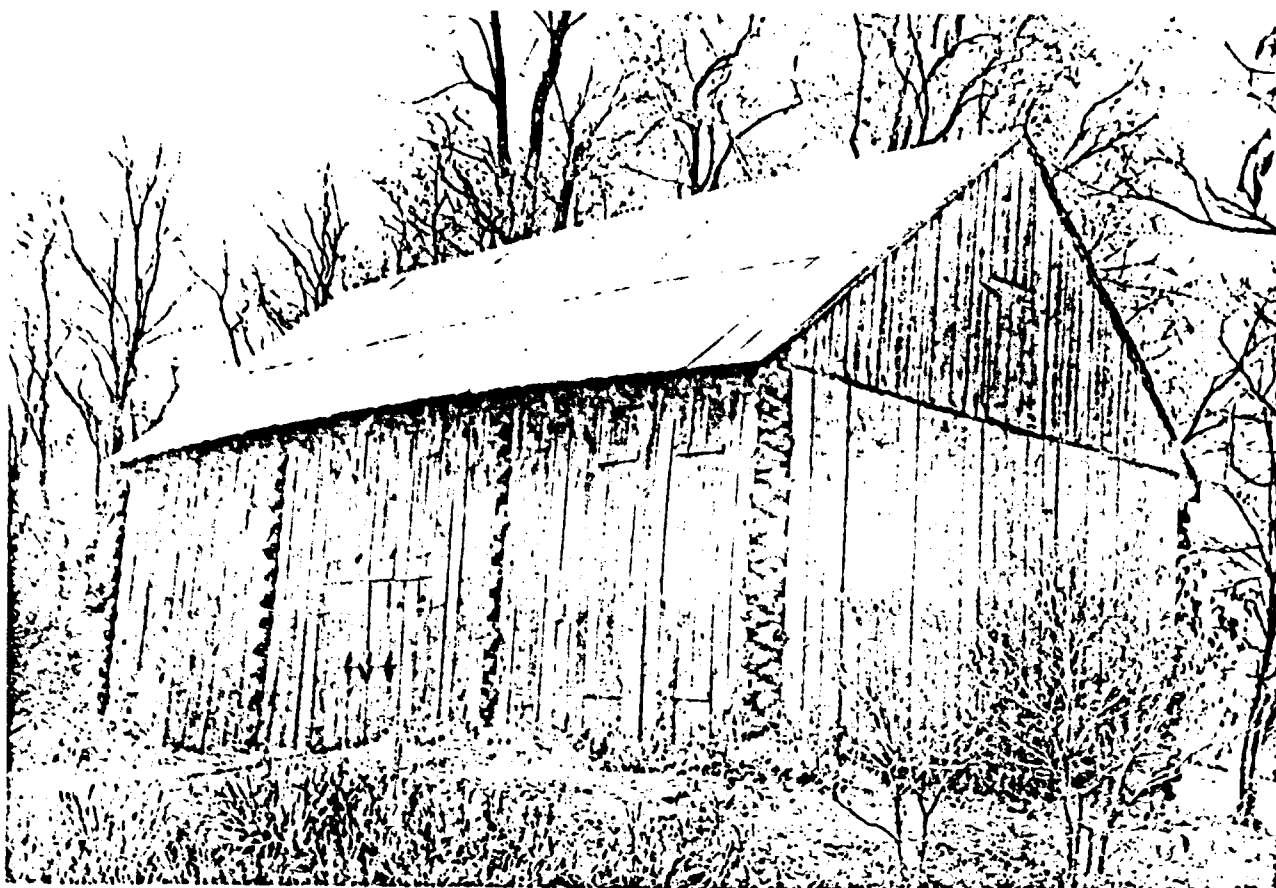
4 IDENTIFICATION

DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC. IF DISTRICT, GIVE BUILDING NAME & STREET

barn from south

PHOTO NO.

2



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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PROPERTY PHOTOGRAPH FORM

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CT-61

DATE ENTERED

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS
TYPE ALL ENTRIES ENCLOSE WITH PHOTOGRAPH

1 NAME

HISTORIC

Morgan's Fresh

AND OR COMMON

MORGAN HILL FARM (preferred); Hill Farm

2 LOCATION

CITY, TOWN

Lusby

X VICINITY OF

COUNTY

Calvert

STATE

Maryland

3 PHOTO REFERENCE

PHOTO CREDIT

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4 IDENTIFICATION

DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC. IF DISTRICT. GIVE BUILDING NAME & STREET

PHOTO NO.

smokehouse from east

5





CT-61
Hill Farm
c. 1670 log Kitchen



CT-61

Hill Farm